

Testimony of

Caroline James

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Before the

Education Committee

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Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

I fully support the House Bill 6884. For me personally, I would benefit slightly by the benefit multiplier of 25% as I am close to retirement. For my colleagues, especially those who just entered into the profession and had to experience teaching during the pandemic, I am in favor of the higher % for their benefit multiplier as an incentive to remain in the profession. I feel strongly that teachers need duty free prep time. As it is, we (teachers) find it difficult to get all of our work done during our paid hours and as a result take much work home. I fully support ensuring an environment free from threats or harassment. Our profession has become significantly more difficult in the past 4 years. Although it does not impact me directly, I fully support the freedom to teach pedagogically sound books and to use symbols, flags, etc. if pedagogically valuable or related to the well-being of students. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

